



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 9/7/2004

GAIN Report Number: MY4049

Malaysia

Poultry and Products

Avian Influenza - second case

2004

Approved by:

Joani Dong

U.S. Embassy, Kuala Lumpur

Prepared by:

Jacelyn Chang

Report Highlights:

Malaysia reports another AI case: quarantine period extends another twenty one days.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Kuala Lumpur [MY1]
[MY]

While the Malaysian poultry industry wait in anticipation for September 9, which is the 21-days quarantine dateline to be declared free from bird flu, the H5-type virus has been detected in a backyard flock in a village on Friday, September 3. Thirty birds (10 chickens and 20 quails) belonging to a villager in Kampung Berlian, which is within the 10-kilometer radius quarantine area of Kampung Baru, Pasir Pekan, the site of the earlier outbreak, had died due to the highly pathogenic strain. The Veterinary Department does not consider this as another outbreak since it happened within the quarantine area and immediately ordered the culling of 1,200 chicken, ducks and birds within a one-kilometer radius of the area to prevent the spread of the disease.

Related to this incident, a ten-year old girl and a veterinary department worker, both with symptoms of avian influenza, have been admitted to the hospital for observation as a precautionary measure. It is still not confirmed whether they are infected by the bird flu. The Health Ministry had combed through 160 houses within 500- meter radius of the affected area and will continue to cover one-kilometer radius today.

With the discovery of this new case, the quarantine period would be extended another 21 days before Malaysia is declared bird-flu free.

While the poultry farmers are crying fowl, the confectionary industry in Johor Bahru is enjoying brisk business with the Singapore ban on imports of eggs from Malaysia since August 15. Orders for confectionary products are reported to have increased 20 percent from across the Causeway. Prices of confectionary products in the republic have gone-up and bakers are unable to meet with the demand to make cakes, buns and biscuits as eggs have become costlier and scarcer.

Before the outbreak, Singapore used to import two million eggs from Malaysia, two-thirds of its daily supply. Since the ban does not cover egg products, Singapore importers have turned to Malaysian bakers to meet the demand, especially with the Hungry Ghost and the Mooncake festival around the corner. Malaysian bakers have reportedly hired temporary staff to cope with the demand.

END OF REPORT